



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

REVIEWS OF BOOKS

BOOKS OF GENERAL AND ANCIENT HISTORY

The New History: Essays illustrating the Modern Historical Outlook. By JAMES HARVEY ROBINSON, Professor of History, Columbia University. (New York: The Macmillan Company. 1912. Pp. vii, 266.)

THESE essays treat of The New History, The History of History, The New Allies of History, Some Reflections on Intellectual History, History for the Common Man, The Fall of Rome, The Principles of 1789, and The Conservative Spirit in the Light of History. All but one have seen the light before. For reappearance, however, they have been modified or supplemented here and there, and welded to a common theme.

This theme appears to start from the premise, that "society is to-day engaged in a tremendous and unprecedented effort to better itself"; that "what we rather vaguely and provisionally call social betterment is coming to be regarded by large numbers of thoughtful persons as the chief interest in this game of life". If this be conceded, it is asked, does not the supreme value of history lie for us in what help it may give on this great present-day task of human betterment?

So far, however, historians have not set themselves to furnish us the help they might. History—history alone—can make the present intelligible. "Could we suddenly be endowed with a Godlike and exhaustive knowledge of the whole history of mankind . . . we should gain forthwith a Godlike appreciation of the world in which we live and a Godlike insight into the evils which mankind now suffers, as well as into the most promising methods for alleviating them, *not because the past would furnish precedents of conduct, but because our conduct would be based upon a perfect comprehension of existing conditions founded upon a perfect knowledge of the past.*" History ought at least to aid us toward such knowledge. But this one thing that it ought to do, it has not effectively done. "It is this most significant form of history's usefulness that has been most commonly neglected."

Then let historians change their ways. Let them escape "from the limitations formerly imposed on the study of the past"—for example, attend less to the merely conspicuous and more to the common and homely. Let them find allies in every possible quarter—anthropology, prehistoric archaeology, social and animal psychology, comparative religion, political economy, political science, and the rest: criticising, guiding, synthesizing for some; drawing aid and life from all.

Let more of them attend to intellectual history. For "in the career of conscious social readjustment upon which mankind is now embarked, it would seem as if the history of thought should play a very important part." "What more vital has the past to teach us than the manner in which our convictions on large questions have arisen, developed and changed?" The history of thought "not only enables us to reach a clear perception of our duties and responsibilities by explaining the manner in which existing problems have arisen, but it promotes that intellectual liberty upon which progress fundamentally depends". Such reform on the part of historians would tend to make of history not only a more useful means for education, but an indispensable aid in the whole management of society. Still more, history would come to promote enthusiasm for progress, and nurture radicalism. "The radical has not yet perceived the overwhelming value to him of a real understanding of the past. It is his weapon by right, and he should wrest it from the hand of the conservative. It has received a far keener edge during the last century, and it is the chief end of this essay to indicate how it can be used with the most decisive effect on the conservative."

Many members of the historical guild will not agree that the "New History" either is or ought to be just as it is portrayed here. He must be however a most pachydermous conservative who will fail to find in these essays much mental food that is both palatable and wholesome. They abound in comments that command assent, they are charmingly written, and they discuss with cumulative force the bearing of history on the present.

E. W. Dow.

Historical Research: an Outline of Theory and Practice. By JOHN MARTIN VINCENT, Professor of European History, Johns Hopkins University. (New York: Henry Holt and Company. 1911. Pp. v, 350.)

A BOOK of the kind in hand can be judged from two points of view: from the view-point of a fellow-worker in the field of history, and from that of a beginner who is about to enter the field. Though it is for the latter that the book is intended it is obvious that your reviewer can best consider it from the standpoint of the former

In certain directions Professor Vincent's book appears not to measure up to the rules which are set down in its own pages. Thus, the section which treats of methods and means of testing the genuineness of documents makes no allusion to the metrical tests which have been so useful in determining the authenticity of the papal correspondence of certain periods. The phraseology of the book is here and there somewhat unusual, at times it is even obscure. "Even in the more studied literary hand there came developed pass usages which were due to the reed or the pen" (p. 49). "As a subject of study abbreviations command great respect and any attempts to further classify and set them in